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REAGAN: THE NICA MALIGNANCY THREATENS ENTIRE FREE WORLD

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in Washington
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in New York

PRESIDENT Reagan last night branded Nicaragua's government an "outlaw regime" and again asked Congress for \$100 million in military aid to rebels fighting it.

He warned that the Sandinista government was a Communist spearhead and declared that the U.S. "must deny the Soviet Union a beachhead in North America."

Reagan's dramatic appeal — delivered in stronger terms than ever before — came just four days before the House votes on the aid request.

In his speech, delivered on nationwide TV, Reagan urged Congress not to ignore "the malignancy in Managua until it spreads and becomes a mortal threat to the entire New World."

The aid, he said, will provide "defense of our own southern frontier."

Reagan used a number of maps, graphs and photos in his bid to touch all bases in support of his appeal.

He said that one photo, supplied by U.S. intelligence, showed a top Sandinista official loading narcotics into a plane bound for the U.S.

He charged that Federico Vaughn of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Interior was involved in the illegal narcotics dealing "under the watchful eye" of an unnamed "Colombian drug kingpin."

Reagan also attacked the Sandinistas for a reign of terror — the murder and torture of opponents, the burning of synagogues, repression of the Catholic church and censorship of independent newspapers.

"There seems to be no crime to which the Sandinistas will not stoop," he said. "This is an outlaw regime."

Administration sources said Reagan



PRESIDENT REAGAN
Tough talk.

needs "10 to 12 votes" for approval of his request in the House, where the margin was once 60 votes against it.

His public appeal was aimed at pressuring more lawmakers, both in the House and the Senate — where a vote is not yet scheduled — to come over to his side.

But Sen. James Sasser of Tennessee, responding for the Democrats, said the President was "seizing military options" without giving diplomacy

enough of a chance.

"Let us call upon our patience, on our wisdom and, most of all, our democratic traditions to achieve a balanced bipartisan policy in South America," said Sasser.

But Reagan stressed that the time for patience was running out.

He said the Soviets have pumped \$600 million into Nicaragua and that 3000 Cuban civilian and military advisers were in the country.

More importantly, he said, the Soviets were building "the largest military airfield in Central America" in Managua.

In Managua, the Sandinista government said Reagan was trying to "hoodwink" Congress into supporting a policy of "creeping military involvement of U.S. combat troops" in Nicaragua that would "trigger a bloody regional war in Central America."